Maratha history is often considered as mere regional history. But it isn’t true. In the 18th century Maratha power emerged as an all India power. Maratha confederacy proved to be a useful instrument for bringing about vast expansion of Maratha power. No other power in contemporary India could ignore the Marathas. Therefore, Maratha history in the 18th century became history of India. However, this aspect of Maratha history isn’t properly highlighted. There are several dimensions to the growth and expansion of Maratha power in the 18th century. Peshwas or Prime Ministers of Maratha State played a crucial role in the process of empire building.

Scholars of Maratha history have mainly studied the reigns of Maratha Chhatrapatis and Peshwa rulers. Social and economic history of the 18th century Maratha country has also been studied. Maratha confederacy and relations of Maratha power with other powers in contemporary India, transfer of power in Maratha State have also received due attention of scholars. S.M. Garge, a renowned scholar of Maratha history has written comprehensive history of Kolhapur state entitled, “कर्वीर रियासत” (Karveer Riyasat). There is a doctoral dissertation on the Chhatrapatis of Satara. However, no scholar has so far carefully examined or reviewed the relations between Kolhapur and Satara, the two branches of Maratha Power in the 18th century. This is no doubt a significant but somewhat neglected aspect of Maratha history. Therefore, an attempt has been made in this thesis to study the nature of Kolhapur-Satara relations in the 18th century and to explain the far-reaching effects of that relationship.
Mughal emperor Aurangazeb’s death on 20th February 1707 marked the end of Maratha war of independence. The Mughal prince Azam released Shahu, the grandson of Chhatrapati Shivaji from Mughal captivity with obvious intention of creating dissension among the Marathas.

After Shahu’s release, a civil war between Tarabai and Shahu on the issue of succession broke out. Shahu captured Satara and set up his capital there. Tarabai revolted against it and laid the foundation of New Gadi at Kolhapur in 1710. It led to the creation of two powerful factions among the Marathas and there were conflicts between these two Chhatrapatis. This conflict influenced the Maratha politics in the 18th century. Because of this conflict Balaji Vishwanath emerged as Peshwa of Chhatrapati Shahu. After Balaji Vishwanath his successor Bajirao, Nanasaheb and Madhavrao Peshwa played significant role in bringing about expansion of Maratha power.

In Kolhapur the unpopular regime of Tarabai was overthrown by her step-son, Sambhaji and his mother Rajasbai with the help of Ramchandrapant Amatya. Chhatrapati Sambhaji of Kolhapur also followed Tarabai’s policy and continued the war against Shahu in which he was supported by the Nizam. But in the battle of Wadgaon, Sambhaji was defeated. As a result the treaty of Warna was signed between the royal cousins in 1731. Eventually the Maratha territory was partitioned between Satara and Kolhapur. The treaty ended the civil war but the relations between Satara and Kolhapur remained strained and full of conflict. But after the death of Shahu in 1749 the nature of Kolhapur-Satara relations changed. They now turned into the Kolhapur Chhatrapati-Peshwa relations. From 1760 to 1772 Kolhapur-Satara relations
were the relations between queen Jijabai and the Peshwa. This perpetual conflict naturally weakened the Maratha State and indirectly helped the Nizam to carve out a permanent place in the South, which greatly affected Indian politics in future.

The proposed thesis is mainly based on published as well as unpublished primary sources. Following standard sources pertaining to Maratha history such as volumes of published Peshwa Daftar, Marathyanchya Itihasachi Sadhane, Karveer Riyasatichi Kagadpatre, Karveer Chhatrapati Gharanyachi Kagadpatre, Pant Amatya Bawada Daftar, Wad Diaries, Purandare Daftar, Tarabaikalin Kagadpatre, Portuguese records, Kapshikar Senapati Gharanyachi Kagadpatre, some volumes of Aitihasik Lekh Sangraha, Kavyetihas Sangrah, Marathi Rumals, Aitihasik Patravyavahar, Malhar Ramrao’s Shahu’s Rojnishi have been consulted and extensively used for the preparation of this thesis. Some unpublished source material like the Niwadi Daftar, Parasnis Daftar has also been utilized for the work. Besides, some secondary source material like Karveer Riyasat, Marathi Riyasat, Chhatrapatis of Kolhapur has been consulted while preparing this thesis.

This work covers major portion of the 18th century, which witnessed rapid expansion of Maratha power. An attempt is made to examine the relationship between Kolhapur and Satara, the two branches of Maratha power in the 18th century. There were many ups and downs, twists and turns in this relationship. However, this study is confined to the period between Shahu’s arrival in Maharashtra (1708) and the deaths of queen Jijabai of Kolhapur and Peshwa Madhavrao (1772-73). This peculiar relationship
rendered Maratha State weak to certain extent During the last quarter of 18th century this relationship did not have much significance and relevance.

This thesis has been divided into six major chapters and the major findings of the thesis have been incorporated in the last chapter.

Chapter I - Maratha Civil War (1707-1710): This chapter contains discussion regarding important developments in Maratha State after Chhatrapati Sambhaji’s death, circumstances leading to the Maratha Civil War, Mughal policy and views of Tarabai towards Shahu.

Chapter II - Tarabai-Shahu Relations (1710-1714): In this chapter the conflict between Shahu and Tarabai and bloodless revolution of 1714 in Kolhapur and the policy of Sambhaji-II have been analysed. The conflict between Chhatrapati Sambhaji-II of Kolhapur and Chhatrapati Shahu, Balaji Vishwanath emerged as Peshwa of Chhatrapati Shahu. This situation also has been analysed.

Chapter III - Relations between Chhatrapati Sambhaji-II and Chhatrapati Shahu till 1730: Chhatrapati Sambhaji also followed Tarabai’s policy and continued the war against Shahu in which he was supported by Nizam. This phase of relation between two cousins was full of conflicts. At Wadgaon, Sambhaji was defeated by Shahu in 1730. As a result of this battle the treaty of Warna was signed between the royal cousins in 1731.

Chapter IV - From Treaty of Warna to Chhatrapati Shahu’s death: Relations in this phase were by and large normal and peaceful. The treaty of Warna was more beneficial to Satara than Kolhapur. After this treaty Sambhaji visited Satara four or five times. The death of Peshwa Bajirao in
1740 changed the situation. In 1740 new Peshwa Nanasaheb made a secret pact by which he promised to install Sambhaji. Chhatrapati Shahu decided to adopt grandson of Tarabai – Rajaram as his successor. After Shahu’s death in 1749 again situation changed.

Chapter V - Chhatrapati Sambhaji-II – Chhatrapati Ramraja Relations: This chapter contains the situation after death of Shahu. After the Sangola revolution Peshwa became all in all in Maratha State. Queen Jijabai, wife of Chhatrapati Sambhaji of Kolhapur tried to keep amicable relations with Peshwa in this phase. Chhatrapati Sambhaji of Kolhapur died in 1760, this turned out to be a new turning point in these relations.

Chapter VI - Jijabai-Peshwa Relations 1760-1772: Peshwa Nanasaheb desired to put his choice on Kolhapur Gadi. Jijabai did not accept it and relations between Peshwa and Jijabai were strained. Peshwa Nanasaheb had ordered to confiscate Kolhapur Gadi. After great defeat of third battle of Panipat, this situation changed. Peshwa Nanasaheb died in 1761. The new Peshwa Madhavrao was in the mood to oppose Jijabai. Jijabai adopted a boy from Khanwatkar Bhosale family. Jijabai put her pressure on the Peshwa. Lastly the Peshwa gave his consent to the adoption of Shivaji-II as Kolhapur Chhatrapati. In this phase the Peshwa tried to keep cordial relations. In 1772, Peshwa Madhavrao died and in 1773 Queen Jijabai also died.

Chapter VII - Review: This chapter contains major research findings and conclusions. Relations between Kolhapur and Satara passed through many ups and downs. The Civil War between Chhatrapati Shahu and Chhatrapati Sambhaji created internal distensions among Marathas and rendered the Maratha State weaker.
Thus comprehensive study of Kolhapur-Satara relation in the 18\textsuperscript{th} century is presented in this thesis. At the end of the work an exhaustive bibliography and Appendices of this work have been given.

\textit{Kolhapur

\textit{(Mrs. Manjiri M. Kulkarni)}

\textit{9 \textbar 12 \textbar 2002}